Negotiation on Labour Standard and Environment in W.T.O

1832. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government plan to negotiate on labour standard and environment and multilateral agreement in the next meeting of WTO;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) to (c) The linkage between trade and labour standards was proposed by some developed countries in the First Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Singapore in 1996 as well as in the Third Ministerial Conference of the WTO at Seattle in 1999. India, in coordination with other like-minded countries, had effectively opposed the inclusion of this linkage in both the Conferences. The linkage between trade and environment has been under discussion in the WTO Committee on Trade and Environment (CTE) since 1995 as mandated by the Marrakesh Decision on Trade and Environment. India, in coordination with other like-minded countries has effectively opposed any modifications in the existing WTO Rules as have been proposed by some developed countries. Regarding other multilateral agreements, Government's response would depend on whether it would be in the national interest to engage in any such negotiations.

Damage done by Cyclone to Cashew Plantation in Orissa

1833. SHRI ANANTA SETHI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have made any assessment on the damage done to cashew plantation in Orissa by cyclone last year;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the total amount needed for the restoration of cashew plantation in the State of Orissa;

(d) the allocation made by Government for the restoration and development of cashew plantation in that State, so far, after the cyclone; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI MURASOLI MARAN): (a) Yes, Sir.